

## ABOUT THIS PROJECT

Idaho 44 runs through downtown Star and Middleton. Farms and orchards along the corridor are becoming subdivisions and businesses, and the cost of land for future roadway expansion is escalating. The Idaho 44 Corridor Preservation Study includes the area south of Idaho 44 to the Boise River and north to Floating Feather Road. It will identify options to meet future transportation needs of the corridor.

### The study will result in:

- An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- An analysis of alternate routes.
- An access management plan.
- An implementation plan.

For more information  
visit our Web site at [www.itd.idaho.gov](http://www.itd.idaho.gov).

Go to Projects, choose Southwest Idaho, click on Idaho 44 Corridor Preservation Study.

#### Contact:

Sue Sullivan, ITD Project Manager, 334-8955 or [sue.sullivan@itd.idaho.gov](mailto:sue.sullivan@itd.idaho.gov).  
Public Involvement Coordinator, ITD, 334-4444 or [comments@itd.idaho.gov](mailto:comments@itd.idaho.gov).



Idaho Transportation Department  
P.O. Box 8028  
Boise, ID 83707-2028

## Idaho 44 Corridor Preservation Study Update

Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) and the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) are working together on a study that will identify future transportation needs along the Idaho 44 corridor between Eagle and Caldwell.

### Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act

Persons needing an interpreter or special accommodations are urged to contact the Public Involvement Coordinator at (208) 334-4444 or TDD/TDY (208) 334-4458.

Se les recomienda a las personas que necesiten un intérprete o arreglos especiales que llamen a la coordinadora de participación pública al (208) 334-4444 ó TDD/TDY (208) 334-4458.



Middleton residents discuss a bypass for the City of Middleton in an August 2007 workshop.

## IDAHO 44 CORRIDOR PRESERVATION STUDY UPDATE

Rapid growth in the surrounding area and increased traffic on Idaho 44 between Eagle and Caldwell are driving the need for improvements on this vital east/west route.

The project team is working with local citizens, developers, cities and counties to keep Idaho 44 functioning as a major arterial roadway.

Thank you for your interest in this study.

Look inside for an update.

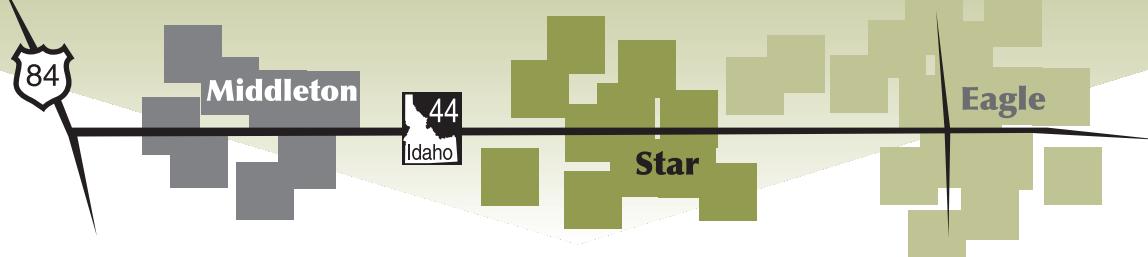


**C O M P A S S**

COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION

of Southwest Idaho

# IDAHO 44 CORRIDOR PRESERVATION STUDY UPDATE



## TRAFFIC ANALYSIS

The project team recently completed an analysis of projected traffic conditions on Idaho 44.\* Projections indicate that traffic on Idaho 44 will more than double by 2030.

Two improvement scenarios were considered in the traffic analysis. One scenario included an alternate route around the City of Middleton; the other did not. Both scenarios included widening Idaho 44 to four lanes. Idaho 44 east of Idaho 16 may need six lanes for future traffic volumes.

Existing Idaho 44 intersections will also need to be improved. Design for these intersections will be based on forecast traffic volumes.

\*Projections are based on population growth and existing and future development, as reported in *Communities in Motion: Regional Long Range Transportation Plan 2030*, adopted by the COMPASS Board in August 2006.

## ROLES IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

### Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

- Federal lead agency for the project.
- Responsible for the decision on the Environmental Impact Statement.

### Idaho Transportation Department (ITD)

- Joint lead agency with FHWA.
- Responsible for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement and project development.

### Metropolitan Planning Organization (COMPASS)

- Approves transportation investments in the Treasure Valley.
- Responsible for regional transportation planning, demographic and traffic forecasting, and air quality modeling.

### Federal, state, tribal and local government agencies

- Invited to actively participate in the environmental evaluation.

### Citizens

- Provide input at workshops, public meetings and hearings throughout the project.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

ITD and COMPASS continue to involve stakeholders on improvements to Idaho 44.

### Middleton Workshop

ITD and COMPASS held a workshop in August 2007 to ask residents and businesses of the City of Middleton for input on a proposed alternate route that would bypass Middleton's downtown area. More than 150 people attended the workshop.

### Middleton residents said:

- They support an alternate route for the City of Middleton.
- They generally support the alternate route shown in the City of Middleton's Comprehensive Plan.

Those in favor of an alternate route, but not in favor of the route shown in Middleton's Comprehensive Plan, often said:

- Move the alternate route further south.
- Minimize impacts to the Boise River.
- Connect the bypass at Emmett Road.

To view the materials presented in the workshop, visit our Web site at [www.itd.idaho.gov](http://www.itd.idaho.gov). Go to Projects, choose Southwest Idaho, click on Idaho 44 Corridor Preservation Study.

### Star and Eagle Workshops

Workshops are planned for the cities of Star and Eagle. Watch for an invitation in the mail.

## WHAT'S NEXT

2008 – 2009

### Community Involvement

Alternative design concepts will be developed and presented for review and comments at a public meeting.

ITD will hold a formal public hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

### Environmental/Engineering

The project team will continue to collect data for technical reports and documents to be included in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Work on a draft access management plan will continue. It will result in a plan adopted by the appropriate cities and highway districts.

## Draft Environmental Impact Statement

### IN THE FIELD

The Idaho 44 Corridor Preservation project team is conducting field work.

These studies and others will be used in the preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

#### Cultural Resources Study

A cultural resources study is being conducted to identify and record archaeological sites, traditional places and built environmental resources. Archeologists have recorded canals, drains, railroads, buildings and farms that are at least 40 years old along the corridor. To date, 248 cultural resources have been recorded. A report will be prepared.

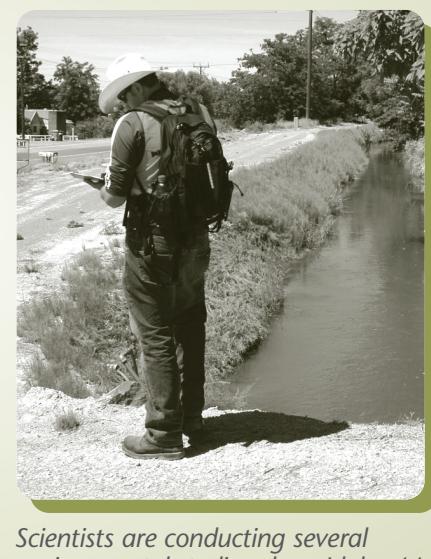
#### Wetlands Investigation

An investigation of wetlands and water resources that are protected under the Clean Water Act was conducted in September 2007. The investigation

included research of existing publications such as county soil surveys and National Wetland Inventory maps, as well as the field identification of wetland boundaries. A wetlands report is being prepared.

#### Geotechnical Survey

A geotechnical survey was conducted in August 2007 to collect data for a report on the current roadway materials and existing natural ground for the project. The report identifies topographic and geologic features, as well as surface and subsurface water features along the corridor. The report will be used to provide recommendations for the design and construction of the roadway.



Scientists are conducting several environmental studies along Idaho 44.